LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A method for correcting distortion in an image of a scanned document, comprising:

physically placing a reference pattern on a page by printing said reference pattern on said page;

obtaining an image of said page containing printed information at least a portion of which is distorted;

detecting said reference pattern in the image indicative of the distortion;

computing an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing the detected reference pattern; and

correcting the distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed in said computing step.

2. Canceled

3. (Previously presented) A method for correcting distortion in an image of a scanned document, comprising:

placing a reference pattern on a page;

obtaining an image of said page containing printed information at least a portion of which is distorted;

detecting said reference pattern in the image indicative of the distortion;

computing an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing the detected reference pattern; and

correcting the distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion

computed in said computing step,

wherein said placing step includes:

attaching a strip of material containing said reference pattern at a predetermined location and predetermined orientation to said page, said obtaining step including scanning said page containing said strip of material into a memory.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for correcting distortion in an image of a scanned document, comprising:

placing a reference pattern on a page;

obtaining an image of said page containing printed information at least a portion of which is distorted;

detecting said reference pattern in the image indicative of the distortion;

computing an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing the detected reference pattern; and

correcting the distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed in said computing step,

wherein said placing step includes:

attaching a plurality of strips of material at predetermined locations and predetermined orientations to said page, one of said strips of material containing said reference pattern and another of said strips containing a second reference pattern, said obtaining step including scanning said page containing said plurality of strips of material into a memory.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said detecting step includes detecting said second reference pattern,

wherein said computing step includes computing an amount of distortion in said image by analyzing said reference pattern and said second reference pattern, and

wherein said correcting step includes correcting distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed in said computing step.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said reference pattern includes a series of markings having a predetermined spatial relationship.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said series of markings are a series of equidistantly spaced bars.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: deleting said reference pattern from said image; and outputting said image as a corrected image free of said distortion.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said outputting step includes one of printing said corrected image, transmitting said image along a communication line, and storing said image in a computer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said distortion results from a curvature located in an interior portion of said page.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said page is a page in a bound volume and wherein the distortion in said page results from a curvature in said page caused by a binding of said bound volume.

12. (Currently amended) A distortion correction processor adapted for use with a digital imaging device, said distortion correction processor comprising:

an optical recognition unit which locates a reference pattern <u>on a page in the form of a strip of material having a predetermined location and predetermined orientation</u> in a document image;

a distortion computation unit which determines an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing said reference pattern; and

a bitmap processor which corrects the distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed by the distortion computation unit.

13. (Original) The distortion correction processor of claim 12, wherein reference pattern is located at a predetermined position within said image.

14. (Original) The distortion correction processor of claim 12, wherein said reference pattern includes a series of markings having a predetermined spatial relationship.

15. (Original) The distortion correction processor of claim 14, wherein said series of markings are a series of equidistantly spaced bars.

16. (Original) The distortion correction processor of claim 12, wherein said optical recognition unit locates a second reference pattern in said document image at a second location within said image,

wherein said distortion computation unit computes an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing said reference pattern and said second reference pattern, and

wherein said bitmap processor corrects distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed by said distortion computation unit.

17. (Currently amended) A digital imaging system, comprising:

a document having a strip of material containing a reference pattern at a predetermined location and predetermined orientation on a page of said document;

an optical scanner which scans said document to obtain an image, said image containing distortion resulting from curvature of said document on a support surface of said optical scanner;

a distortion correction processor which receives said image from said optical scanner, said distortion correction processor including:

(a) an optical recognition unit which locates said reference pattern in said image,

(b) a distortion computation unit which determines an amount of the distortion in said image by analyzing said reference pattern,

(c) a bitmap processor which corrects the distortion in said image based on the amount of distortion computed by the distortion computation unit; and

an output unit for outputting the corrected image to an output device.